

# Hazardous Material Removal Proceeding at Hospital Site

## Piqua Hospital Site

Piqua, Ohio

June 2009

### Additional site information

For more information, please contact the site team members listed below or look at the documents in the information repository.

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### Information Repository

Piqua Public Library

116 West High St.

Contractors under the oversight of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio authorities are beginning the actual work to remove hazardous chemicals and asbestos material from the site of the former Piqua Memorial Medical Center. The cleanup project will last into July. Hazardous materials will be disposed of off-site at an EPA-approved facility.

The removal work was only begun after careful preparations were made last month to ensure the safety of residents and nearby schoolchildren. The site was contained by construction of a decontamination unit, covering stormwater drains, stabilizing debris piles, sealing broken windows and marking off property boundaries with signs. Site security as well as perimeter air monitoring were begun in early April. In mid-April property owner Dr. Enrique De La Piedra of Florida signed an agreement with EPA to pay for the cleanup.

### Site background

The Piqua Hospital site is a former medical facility located at 624 Park Ave. in Piqua, Ohio. The location is surrounded by homes and an elementary school to the west plus a church to the southeast. The property contains three buildings — the partially demolished Main Building, intact Administration Building and the demolished Boiler Building.

Piqua Memorial Medical Center operated on the site from the 1920s until it closed in 1996. In 2008 the current owner arranged for demolition activities that were suddenly halted last December when the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) issued a stop work order due to illegal asbestos-handling activities. The city of Piqua issued a nuisance order to the owner



*Hazardous material including chemical drums and asbestos-containing debris is being removed from the site of the former Piqua Memorial Medical Center.*

this February requiring environmental and safety issues to be resolved before demolition could resume. In March, Ohio EPA and the city asked for EPA assistance to clean up abandoned hazardous waste and outdoor asbestos debris piles.

### Current activities

An EPA, Ohio EPA and RAPCA team completed a site assessment in mid-March. The assessment included a health and safety meeting, site inspection, air monitoring, sample collection for waste chemicals and asbestos, and hazard classification and analysis.

The Main Building was found to be partially demolished with debris piles located on all sides. About 75 percent of the Main Building windows were broken or missing. Many doors were also missing or left open. Numerous small to very large holes were noted in the exterior walls. The penthouse located on the roof was found to be missing an

entire wall on the north side. The former Boiler House was completely demolished with only the basement remaining.

Numerous containers were sampled to determine whether the contents would classify as hazardous waste. Sampling confirmed the drums and containers held acids, caustics and mercury, and the outdoor debris piles included asbestos.

In April, federal, state and local officials met with consultant Zeigler Environmental hired by the site owner to discuss the upcoming cleanup work. EPA approved a Phase I work plan to stabilize the asbestos-contaminated debris piles located outside the Main Building and enclose the penthouse area. In early April, officials held a media briefing to inform the public of the current progress on the project. The local newspaper, the *Piqua Daily Call*, published an article about the briefing in its April 13 issue.

### On the Web

#### About the site:

[www.epa.gov/region5/sites/piquamemorial](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/piquamemorial)

#### More about asbestos:

[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos)

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